

Minutes of...Meeting to Discuss Policy Council

Details

Date: July 23, 2008

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- Danielle Boldt, Sheriff's Department
 - Dr. Richard Chinnock, Loma Linda University, Dept. of Pediatrics
 - Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender
 - Rosa Gomez, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Margaret Hill, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
 - Michael Markel, County Counsel
 - Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Robin Sherman-Young, Courts
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Court
 - Lisha Smith, 5th District BOS
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Nancy Swanson, Transitional Assistance Dept.
 - Beatriz Valdez, Grants Coordinator – CAO
 - Kathy Watkins, Human Services Legislation & Research
 - Greg Zerovnik, San Bernardino County Library Administration
 - Mike Schertell, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Jeff Wagner, Department of Children's Services
 - Norman Dollar, Department of Children's Services
 - Michelle Scray, Probation Department
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Meeting purpose

Judge Slough convened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Self-introductions were made. **A motion was made to approve the agenda as submitted. A motion was made by Ron Griffin and seconded by Nancy Swanson to approve the minutes as they were submitted.**

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Welcome and Introductions	Judge Slough
Approval of Agenda	Judge Slough
Approval of May 2008 Minutes	Judge Slough
Children's Fund Report	Stafford
Children's Network Report	Cousineau
Discussion/Action regarding Foster Care Executive Summary	Cousineau
Discussion/Action regarding CAPIT/PSSF Contracts	Wagner
Group Home Discussion	Haugan, Rawland, Scray

**Key points:
Children's
Fund Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Rebecca Stafford stated that they have been receiving hundreds of requests for children's backpacks. There will be about 1,500 backpacks distributed at the; West end, Rialto, and Barstow on August 14th and 20th. If you want more details contact Marty Sellers of Children's Fund at 909-387-4949. Children on caseloads in Public Health, DBH (Department of Behavioral Health), TAY (Transitional Aged Youth), and DCS (Department of Children's Services) will be the ones primarily served.
- Another request they have been able to fill is for Judge Slough's running program. Children's Fund was able to assist with running shoes, and workout clothes for sixteen girls involved with the Probation Department. Judge Slough that the Probation staff that has assisted with the girls has done a great job. The girls are training for a 5K run in early September.
- Rebecca mentioned they still have tickets available for the Concert under the Stars on Saturday, July 26th. The ticket price is \$55 and 100% goes back to serve needy children.

**Key points:
Children's
Network
Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Amy Cousineau shared a draft Powers and Duties for the Board of Supervisors Agenda item that must be re-submitted. Amy asked the group to review the document before the next Strategic Planning Meeting on August 27th. The time of the meeting will be either noon to 3 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Amy will be coordinating with Harder and Company as they will be serving as facilitators again. An e-mail will be sent out to all of you to calendar the meeting.
 - Just a reminder that the Children's Network Conference will be on September 3rd and 4th at the Ontario Convention Center. Sue Taylor mentioned she will be contacting the Policy Council members to make sure staff from their department will be attending, and if they plan to attend as well, or see if they would want to be a vendor.
 - Amy reported that the Safely Surrender Babies subcommittee has been meeting and are working on getting the message out to the community. Another thing the group is working on is applying for a Prevent Institute Technical Assistance grant. It is a competitive process across the United States with only fifteen applicants to be awarded.
 - Sue distributed the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) save the date card for their Munchin at the Mansion. It will be a fund raising event with terrific food from twenty-five restaurants.
 - Judge Slough mentioned that it is terrific event and has been happy with CASA recruiting and training CASA Volunteers to go to Juvenile Dependency Court and actively engage in the lives of foster children from San Bernardino County.
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Key points:
Discussion/
Action item for
the Foster Care

The following highlights were given:

- Amy pointed out the Foster Care Summit workgroup information in the agenda packet. She stated that a special thanks needs to go to the PDD (Program Development Division) and Laura Lee.
 - This group has conducted two Foster Care Summits that were very successful.
 - The Foster Care Subcommittee workgroup has met their initial charge and part of today's recommendation will cover the next steps to be taken.
 - Amy and Faye Eastman attended a CYC (California Youth Connection) meeting and proposed to the group to see if there would be an interest in taking the lead for the Foster Care Summit to be held in May, 2009. The group was very enthused and was told they could get some financial assistance for the event from; DBH (Department of Behavioral Health), Probation, DCS (Department of Children's Services), and Children's Network.
 - Amy mentioned that she has added a Foster Youth Services track to the Children's Network Annual Conference on a yearly basis. There will be two sessions. Amy will be contacting; DBH, DCS, Probation, and County Schools to assist in planning the workshops for the Foster Youth Services Track. It was suggested it is timely in the near future to submit to the Board of Supervisors an update on what was accomplished at both Foster Care Summits, and an update on Group Home procedures. Some information from the Board of Supervisors Agenda item on January, 2007 was read regarding group homes and the needs assessment.
 - **A motion was made by Allan Rawland and seconded by Margaret Hill to accept the recommendations from the Executive Report of the Foster Care Summit.**
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**Key points:
Discussion/
Action
requested
regarding
PSSF/CAPIT
contracts**

The following highlights were discussed:

- The following documents were distributed by Norman Dollar; PSSF/CAPIT Updated Plan Summary.
 - This topic item had some materials that had been shared at the Policy Council Strategic Planning Session scheduled on June 30th, but no action was taken as it was not on the agenda for discussion.
 - Jeff Wagner stated the original Board Item to approve the PSSF/CAPIT (Preservation Safe Stable Families/Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment) contracts was approved on February 24, 2008.
 - The State of California has asked that the contractors and their duties to be included in the Self Assessment Plan.
 - There will still be an RFP process for the contractors in the near future.
 - The biggest change is that the area served by the contractors has expanded to cover the Morongo Basin. Another change added was an outcomes web – based data collection system. Another new item for the contractors is to add transportation routes and the demographics of areas they serve.
 - Jeff mentioned that DCS must submit to the State their plan with the contractors.
 - **The motion was made to; 1) Contract out the services provided by CAPIT/PSSF, (this has already been in the works), and 2) DCS to oversee the contractors. Allan Rawland made the motion and Mike Schertell seconded it.**
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**Key points:
Group Home
Discussion**

The following highlights were given:

Linda Haugan spoke about the recent placement of some delinquent and illegal juveniles that had been placed in a San Bernardino County Group Home in Yucaipa. San Francisco County had made these placements without notifying the appropriate departments in San Bernardino County.

- Michelle Scray of Probation reported: Michelle mentioned that San Francisco County should have contacted San Bernardino County on the group home placements in our County. She also mentioned that if this County places children in group homes that are illegal, they do notify INS. There has been lots of legislation pertaining to group home placements. Michelle is concerned about legislation passing that bans placement of the children in this county at out-of-home placements, because some children require a higher level of placement that can not be located in this county. Michelle suggested that there needs to be some alternatives for placements that are not in our county. Michelle mentioned through this situation it has caused some county departments to do a look at their checks and balances for placements as it pertains to the regulations.
- Allan Rawland of DBH reported: He spoke at the Press Conference after Michelle regarding the complexity and how placements from other Counties affect San Bernardino County. He also mentioned the newspaper article in the Agenda packets regarding this issue. Allan suggested may want to introduce legislation for conditional use permits. According to the 2006 Group Home Study there are 1,100 group home beds in this county. Over 700 of the children placed in these group homes are from other counties DBH, Probation and DCS. Probation Departments are supposed to be notified about certain placements, as well as the county school districts is supposed to be notified of special needs children. He also mentioned the legislation 1785 pertains to children with Medi-Cal in placements and the county placement only able to collect 50 cents on the dollar.
- Allan stated there needs to be a better coordination of cross systems monitoring of group home placements as it pertains to quality of care and ..

expectations from the group home providers. He mentioned this county is coordinating a system of care for group home placements in coordination with the AB 1453 Nell Soto legislation.

- **A suggestion was made to do a report back to the Board of Supervisors after information and data has been gathered on the system of care in group homes. The report could also identify cross systems communication and evaluation.**
 - It was mentioned that there are placements of 300 children in out-of-state placements. Probation has 215 placements includes placements in the county and outside. DBH has 68 placements and DCS has the rest.
 - Norman Dollar distributed a report, (July 23rd, DCS Out-of-County Placement of Dependent Children – Executive Summary). He stated that DCS has 5,532 children placed in approved care by the Juvenile Court Judge. 845 children are placed outside of the County. The majority of these children are placed in; Riverside, Orange, or Los Angeles County. 104 children are placed out-of-state.
 - RCL 14 costs approximately \$6,300 per month due to the increase in staffing and supervision, etc.
 - Allan stated the group home placements that have a contract with Behavioral Health can run up as much as \$12,000 per month per bed, with an average of 500 to 600 per day. CCL has their own strategy to what they consider are good group homes.
 - There is a moratorium on new group home beds in San Bernardino County.
 - Kathy Watkins mentioned that there are several “generic” group homes in San Bernardino County, because the real estate is cheaper. There has been a decision not to approve any more generic group home beds in this county. The model of RBS (Residential Based Services) is working with group home providers to offer wraparound and more connections to the community.
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- Due to the legislation of AB 2149, the group home provider must report incidents to CCL and our county is entitled to the report on all group homes in this county, even if the child affected is not from this county. Kathy Watkins mentioned that the quarterly report was just distributed. If this county has reached a level of concern for a particular group home, then a Letter of Concern can be sent to CCL. Legislation could beef up these areas of concern. There has to be some local controls so that there is no violation of the Fair Housing Act.
 - Judge Slough mentioned that she has visited the Glen Mills Facility out-of-state and would hate to lose it as a placement facility.
 - Michelle mentioned that 80 to 85% of Probation children are placed in group homes in; San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles counties.
 - Linda mentioned that the Board of Supervisors are mindful of laws and what CCL is suppose to be doing, but are concerned about who is enforcing the laws at the group homes.
 - Michelle stated that due to the budget cuts through the State, CCL is only able to go out to each group home once in seven years. Perhaps the press needs to be notified of this matter, since people do not understand.
 - Due to the economy and reduced placements, the group home providers are more willing to take placements from other counties.
 - Allan stated there needs to be more exercise of control, to make sure the group homes are in compliance, having placement agreements, and build in expectations, and assure quality of care.
 - Michelle found out that the Probation Department is not getting the SIR (Significant Incident Reports) and that the department is not alerted when a child goes AWOL.
 - Michael Schertell stated it is important to build a relationship with the group home providers so that problems can be dealt with as they come along. DBH has provided quarterly training opportunities all over the county. The DCS Group Home Coordinator does go out to the specific group homes for monitoring purposes.
 - Margaret Hill mentioned she recently went to Orange County to visit their Foster Youth Program and was very impressed with a computer tracking system of group home placements. San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is purchasing the computer program and there should be access to it from other agencies. She will share more information as it becomes available. There will be training conducted before the end of the year.
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- Allan suggested this new computer tracking system could be added to the report that will go before the Board of Supervisors. Kathy Watkins clarified that the program only applies to foster youth.
 - Allan suggested the formation of a small workgroup to work on the preparation of the report to the Board of Supervisors to include; recommendations from the Foster Care Summits, how legislation applies, and the Group Home Needs Assessment report.
 - Kathy suggested not creating another workgroup because the RBS group can identify all of the areas of concern, which they are already doing presently. Norman and Michael Schertell are co-leaders of this group and will make sure the areas get tackled and a report developed. Kathy shared there should be a product available as of January, 2009.
 - Michael Schertell expects there will be an actual report ready by the RBS group in October.
 - **A motion was made by Allan Rawland and seconded by Michelle Scray to have the RBS workgroup develop the recommendations from the areas this group has identified and bring back a report to Policy Council.**
 - Michelle stated she has to report back to the Grand Jury on this topic. Norman stated he had to clarify program design for the Board of Supervisors.
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**Key points:
Other**

The following highlights were given:

- Allan stated that they have submitted their PEI (Prevention Early Intervention) plan to the state. If approved, DBH will be getting 15 million dollars over the next 2 years. San Bernardino County is the first largest county in the state to submit the PEI plan. Allan expects some of the funds to go to; family resource centers, and additional resources for head start, etc. He has a copy for anyone wanting to review the document.
 - Judge Slough stated that the Juvenile Justice Committee is looking for nominees to be recognized. She distributed information.
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Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Part 2 of the Strategic Plan on August 27th at 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

The regular Policy Council group will reconvene on September 24, 2008 at noon, at the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.
